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ABSTRACT

Through state and regional education networks and commercial providers, the vast resources of the Internet are increasingly available to administrators, school library media specialists, and classroom teachers. This ERIC Digest lists a sample of no cost Internet resources of special interest to K-12 educators (resources and addresses are subject to change). Highlights include: guides to Internet resources; lesson plans and teaching materials; keypals and penpals; acceptable use policies; technology plans for K-12 schools; Internet projects for the classroom; grant information; e-rate information; federal government information; state education departments; standards-based education; reference resources; library catalogs; and other resources. (AEF)

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ERIC Digest
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By:

Nancy A. Morgan, updated by Steven Batovsky

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Clearinghouse on Information & Technology

ERIC DIGEST

June 1998

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part I: Information Resources, Update 1998

by Nancy A. Morgan, updated by Steven Batovsky

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. Recently, through state and regional education networks and commercial providers, the vast resources of the Internet are increasingly available to administrators, school library media specialists, and classroom teachers. This Digest lists a sample of no cost Internet resources of special interest to K-12 educators. Readers should be aware that the resources and their Internet addresses below are subject to change.

Guides to Internet Resources:

- **The Argus Clearinghouse:** A large collection of guides to Internet resources categorized by topic.
  http://www.clearinghouse.net/
- **AskERIC InfoGuides:** Topical guides to Internet, ERIC, and print resources.
  http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/InfoGuides/

Lesson Plans and Teaching Materials:

- **The AskERIC Virtual Library** contains hundreds of lesson plans, including, but not limited to, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Also included are lesson plans from School Library Media Activities Monthly, Newton's Apple Educators Guides, and Crossroads: K16 American History Curriculum.
  http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Lessons/
- **The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM)** is a "virtual card catalog" to lesson plans, activities, project, and curriculum found all over the Internet.
  http://www.thegateway.org

Keypals and Penpals:

- **IECC-Intercultural E-mail Classroom Connections** maintains a suite of listservs that facilitate international and cross-cultural classroom exchanges via e-mail over the Internet. Archives and general information can be found on the St. Olaf's WWW server.
  http://www.stolaf.edu/network/iecc/

Acceptable Use Policies:

Many schools which provide Internet access to students and staff have created policies and agreements for the appropriate use of Internet accounts. Samples of agreements, policies and opinion pieces have been collected at:

- **Armadillo's WWW Server.**
  http://chico.rice.edu/armadillo/Rice/Resources/acceptable.html

Technology Plans for K-12 Schools:

- **The National Center for Technology Planning** collects technology plans and makes them freely available over the Internet. Guidebooks and articles for developing technology plans are also included.
  http://www.nctp.com/

Internet Projects for the Classroom:

Examples of telecommunication projects that incorporate the use of the Internet in the classroom can be found on the following sites:

- **Global SchoolNet Foundation:** Internet Projects Registry Archive Service.
  http://www.gsn.org/project/index.html
- **Pitsco Online Collaborative Projects:**
  http://www.pitsco.com/pitsco/collab.html

Grant Information:

- **U.S. Department of Education Grants & Contracts Information:** Includes current grant application announcements.
  http://gcs.ed.gov/
  Select "Grants Information"
- **Foundation Center:** Provides a searchable database of funding activities as well as links to private or corporate foundations' Web sites.
  http://fdncenter.org/

E-Rate Information:

- **E-Rate Hotline:** The E-Rate Hotline provides answers to questions about how the universal service program works, how you can take advantage of the discounts and which services are covered.
  http://www.eratehotline.org/

Federal Government Information:

- **Louisiana State University Libraries U.S. Federal Government Agencies Page:**
  http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html
- **The Federal Web Locator,** from the Villanova Center for Information Law and Policy.

http://www.law.vill.edu/fed-agency/fedwebloc.html

- **FedWorld Information Network**
  http://www.fedworld.gov/

State Education Departments:

The following sites provide links to the State Education Departments:

- **U.S. Department of Education Links and Addresses of State Education Agencies**
  http://www.ed.gov/Programs/bastmp/SEA.htm
- **Links to State Education Agencies from The Council of Chief State School Officers**
  http://develop.ccsso.cybercentral.com/seamenu.htm

Standards-Based Education:

- **The Mid-Continental Regional Educational Laboratory (McREL)** is recognized for its work in standards-based education. This Web site includes several full-text online resources that will assist educators to develop their own standards based curriculum.
  http://www.mcrel.org/standards/

Reference Resources:

- **The Libraries of Purdue University:** The Virtual Reference Desk: An extensive collection of online ready reference resources, such as dictionaries, thesauri, phone books and zip codes.
  http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/reference/index.html
- **Internet Public Library Reference Center:** Another excellent collection of reference sources, also allows patrons to ask reference questions through e-mail or on the Web.
  http://www.ipl.org/ref/

Library Catalogs:

- **webCATS,** from the University of Saskatchewan Libraries is a directory of library catalogs which can be searched via the Web. webCATS is organized for searching geographically, by type of library, and by library catalog vendor.
  http://www.lights.com/webcats/

- **Library of Congress:** Provides access to the holdings of the Library of Congress, U.S. Government copyright files, federal legislation, foreign law, and gateway access to many other library catalogs.
  http://lcweb.loc.gov/catalog/

Other Resources:

Hundreds of resources covering almost every subject imaginable exist on the Internet. Here are some additional ones that would be of special interest to K-12 educators.

- **ACCESS ERIC:** Gateway to the Internet sites of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC).
  http://www.aspensys.com/eric/index.html

- **Consortium for School Networking (CoSN):**
  http://www.cosn.org/

- **Education World:** A searchable database of 50,000 education links for teachers, parents, and students. Includes lesson plans, education news, an educators forum, and more.
  http://www.education-world.com/

- **NASA Spacelink:** Information about NASA, including the space shuttle program, and science curriculum activities.
  http://spacelink.nasa.gov/.index.html

- **Roadmap:** An Internet Training Workshop.
  http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~crispen/roadmap.html

- **Web 66:** A K-12 WWW Project from the University of Minnesota.
  http://web66.coled.umn.edu/

- **Yahoo:** A hierarchical subject-oriented catalog for the World Wide Web and Internet.
  http://www.yahoo.com/

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